

Standards

ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation The Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation, developed by the American Therapeutic Recreation Association, reflect standards for the quality of therapeutic recreation practice by therapeutic recreation professionals and paraprofessionals in a variety of settings. The standards are divided into two distinct areas: Direct Practice of Therapeutic Recreation; and Management of Therapeutic Recreation Practice. The standards, originally released in 1991, revised in 1994 and again in 2000 reflect state of the art practice in therapeutic recreation.

The standards as listed in this appendix do not stand-alone and should not be used without the measurement criteria of structure, process and outcome provided in the manual. For instance, the following examples illustrate the use of the measurement criteria to aid in interpretation and evaluation of each standard.

The Self Assessment Guide (includes useful worksheets on standards scoring, documentation audit, management audit, outcome assessment, competency assessment and clinical performance appraisals).

Standard 1. Assessment. The therapeutic recreation specialist conducts an individualized assessment to collect systematic comprehensive and accurate data necessary to determine a course of action and subsequent individualized treatment plan. Under the clinical supervision of the therapeutic recreation specialist, the therapeutic recreation assistant aids in collecting systematic, comprehensive and accurate data necessary to determine a course of action and subsequent individualized treatment plan.

Example:

Structure Criteria

1.1.2. The assessment process generates culturally appropriate baseline data that identifies the patient's/client's strengths and limitations in the following functional areas: physical, cognitive, social, behavioral, emotional and leisure/play. Example:

Process Criteria

The Therapeutic recreation specialist:

1.2.3. Provides a summary of the assessment process that contains information relative to the patient's/client's strengths, patient's/client's limitations, analysis of assessment data, and summary of functional status.

The Therapeutic recreation assistant:

1.2.3.1. Provides a summary of assessment information relative to the patient's/client's strengths and weaknesses, to the therapeutic recreation specialist.

Example:

Outcome Criteria

The patient/client, family and/or significant other(s):

1.3.3. Benefits from the assessment process and does not incur adverse consequences due to participation in the assessment.

Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation*Direct Practice of Therapeutic RecreationManagement of Therapeutic Recreation PracticeStandard 1. AssessmentStandard 8. Written Plan of OperationStandard 2. Treatment PlanningStandard 9. Staff Qualifications and Competency AssessmentStandard 3. Plan ImplementationStandard 10. Quality ManagementStandard 4. Re-Assessment and EvaluationStandard 11. Resource ManagementStandard 5. Discharge and Transition PlanningStandard 12. Program Evaluation and ResearchStandard 6. Recreation Services Standard 7. Ethical Conduct *Please note: The standards as listed in this appendix do not stand-alone and should not be used without the measurement criteria of structure, process and outcome provided in the manual.

To order the ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self Assessment Guide, visit the online bookstore here or call (601) 450-2872. Price for members is \$20.00 plus shipping and handling, non-members \$40.00 plus shipping or handling.

Code

ATRA Code Of Ethics

ATRA Definition Statement

Therapeutic Recreation is the provision of treatment services and the provision of recreation services to persons with illnesses or disabling conditions. The primary purposes of treatment services which are often referred to as Recreational Therapy, are to restore, remediate or rehabilitate in order to improve functioning, and independence, as well as reduce or eliminate the effects of illness or disability. The primary purposes of recreational services are to provide recreation resources and opportunities in order to improve health and well-being. Therapeutic Recreation is provided by professionals who are trained and certified, registered and/or licenses to provide Therapeutic Recreation.

The American Therapeutic Recreation Association's Code of Ethics is to be used as a guide for promoting and maintaining the highest standards of ethical behavior. The Code applies to all Therapeutic Recreation personnel. The term Therapeutic Recreation personnel includes Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists (CTRS), therapeutic recreation assistants and therapeutic recreation students. Acceptance of membership in the American Therapeutic Recreation Association commits a member to adherence to these principles.

Principle 1 Beneficence/ Non-Maleficance

Therapeutic Recreation personnel shall treat persons in an ethical manner not only by respecting their decisions and protecting them from harm but also by actively making efforts to secure their well-being. Personnel strive to maximize possible benefits, and minimize possible harms. This serves as the guiding principle for the professional. The term "persons" includes, not only persons served but colleagues, agencies and the profession.

Principle 2 Autonomy

Therapeutic Recreation personnel have a duty to preserve and protect the right of each individual to make his/her own choices. Each individual is to be given the opportunity to determine his/her own course of action in accordance with a plan freely chosen.

Principle 3 Justice

Therapeutic Recreation personnel are responsible for ensuring that individuals are served fairly and that there is equity in the distribution of services. Individuals receive service without regard to race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability/disease, social and financial status.

Principle 4 Fidelity

Therapeutic Recreation personnel have an obligation to be loyal, faithful and meet commitments made to persons receiving services, colleagues, agencies and the profession.

Principle 5 Veracity/ Informed Consent

Therapeutic recreation personnel shall be truthful and honest. Therapeutic Recreation personnel are responsible for providing each individual receiving service with information regarding the service and the professional's training and credentials; benefits, outcomes, length of treatment, expected activities, risks, limitations. Each individual receiving service has the right to know what is likely to take place during and as a result of professional intervention. Informed consent is obtained when information is provided by the professional.

Principle 6 Confidentiality And Privacy

Therapeutic Recreation personnel are responsible for safeguarding information about individuals served. Individuals

served have the right to control information about themselves. When a situation arises that requires disclosure of confidential information about an individual to protect the individual's welfare or the interest of others, the Therapeutic Recreation professional has the responsibility/obligation to inform the individual served of the circumstances in which confidentiality was broken.

Principle 7 Competence

Therapeutic Recreation personnel have the responsibility to continually seek to expand one's knowledge base related to Therapeutic Recreation practice. The professional is responsible for keeping a record of participation in training activities. The professional has the responsibility for contributing to advancement of the profession through activities such as research, dissemination of information through publications and professional presentations, and through active involvement in professional organizations.

Principle 8 Compliance With Laws & Regulations

Therapeutic Recreation personnel are responsible for complying with local, state and federal laws and ATRA policies governing the profession of Therapeutic Recreation.

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